



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held May 20, 2008, the Board took the following action:

62-A

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke:

“On Thursday, May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling on same-sex marriages. By a 4-3 vote the Court affirmed, in the words of Chief Justice Ronald M. George, that ‘the California Constitution properly must be interpreted to guarantee this basic civil right to all Californians, whether gay or heterosexual, and to same-sex couples as well as to opposite-sex couples.’

“According to the Court’s press release, ‘(t)he decision directs state officials who supervise the enforcement of the state’s marriage laws to ensure that local officials comply with the court’s ruling and permit same-sex couples to marry. The decision becomes final in 30 days unless that period is extended by court order.’

“In order to ensure the County’s full and timely compliance with the requirements of this decision, it is imperative that we completely understand our legal obligations and adequately prepare to implement the necessary procedures.”

Dean Logan, Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, presented a verbal report to the Board on the California Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage ruling and the attendant legal obligations on the County to enforce its provisions; and a plan for implementing the necessary policies and procedures to best serve the public under this new regime.

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After discussion, Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke made a recommendation that the Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk be instructed to take the following actions:

1. Convene a community advisory panel composed of representatives of the gay and lesbian communities from all parts of the County to facilitate the exchange of useful and timely information between the County and the community and to ensure that the California Supreme Court ruling is implemented in Los Angeles County with all appropriate speed, dignity and respect;
2. Consider opening satellite offices for issuance of marriage licenses and to conduct marriage ceremonies in appropriate locations, including the City of West Hollywood which has asked that an office be opened within its boundaries in order to facilitate what is expected to be a large demand in the months immediately following implementation of the ruling;
3. Devise appropriate recommendations regarding recruitment, training and tenure of volunteer "Deputy Commissioners of Civil Marriage" during the months immediately following implementation of the ruling; and
4. Work with the Sheriff and the Office of Public Safety, as appropriate, to ensure that security is provided at Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk locations issuing marriage licenses and/or conducting marriage ceremonies when necessary to preserve the privacy and dignity of marriage ceremonies and to safeguard participants, County employees and members of the public at large.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In 2000, California voters approved State Measure 22 which defined marriage as only being between a man and a woman to be valid or recognized in the State of California. Another similar initiative seeking an amendment of the State Constitution, entitled the 'California Marriage Protection Act', has garnered over 250,000 signatures on petitions in this County alone and is expected to qualify for the November ballot.

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Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel, responded to questions posed by the Board.

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke's recommendation be amended to direct County Counsel to report back to the Board by June 15, 2008 on the impact the passage of a November ballot measure, the California Marriage Protection Act, would have on the following:

- The County's implementation plan, as well as on any same-sex marriage licenses granted between now and November; and
- Those people who receive a marriage license and have a ceremony prior to the November election.

Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke accepted Supervisor Antonovich's amendment.

Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke's recommendation be further amended to request County Counsel to include in the report back whether out-of-State, same-sex marriages would be recognized within California based on the California Supreme Court's May 15, 2008 decision. Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to:
  - Convene a community advisory panel composed of representatives of the gay and lesbian communities from all parts of the County to facilitate the exchange of useful and timely information between the County and the community and to ensure that the California Supreme Court ruling is implemented in Los Angeles County with all appropriate speed, dignity and respect;
  - Consider opening satellite offices for issuance of marriage licenses and to conduct marriage ceremonies in appropriate locations, including the City of West Hollywood which has asked that an office be opened within its boundaries in order to facilitate what is expected to be a large demand in the months immediately following implementation of the ruling;

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- Devise appropriate recommendations regarding recruitment, training and tenure of volunteer “Deputy Commissioners of Civil Marriage” during the months immediately following implementation of the ruling; and
  - Work with the Sheriff and the Office of Public Safety, as appropriate, to ensure that security is provided at Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk locations issuing marriage licenses and/or conducting marriage ceremonies when necessary to preserve the privacy and dignity of marriage ceremonies and to safeguard participants, County employees and members of the public at large; and
2. Instructed County Counsel to report back to the Board by June 15, 2008 on:
- The impact the passage of a November ballot measure, the California Marriage Protection Act, would have on: the County’s implementation plan, as well as on any same-sex marriage licenses granted between now and November; and on those people who receive a marriage license and have a ceremony prior to the November election; and
  - Whether out-of-State, same-sex marriages would be recognized within California based on the California Supreme Court’s May 15, 2008 decision.

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Each Supervisor  
Sheriff  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
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